

Did you know...



A common reason grown-ups don't sing with children is that they don't think they have a good singing voice. But young children don't really know a good singing voice from a bad one; they just want you to sing with them!

Singing with your child will help develop phonological awareness, or the ability to hear the sounds in words. Recognizing when words rhyme and hearing the beginning sounds of words are things that help children learn to read later on.

For more information about how you can develop phonological awareness, visit www.phonologicalawareness.org

Here's how...



- ✦ Add actions, such as clapping or stomping, as you sing a song or say a poem.
- ✦ Say rhymes and sing songs in the language most comfortable for you.
- ✦ Play CDs as you're traveling in the car and sing along to them.
- ✦ Sing songs with your child every day. Songs break words into syllables and are a fun way to learn about word sounds. In most songs, each syllable in a word gets a different note. Clap each syllable as you sing it.

Twink-le



twink-le



lit-tle



star,



How



I



won-der



what



you



are.



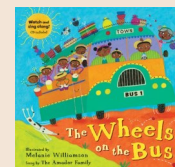
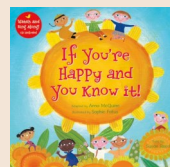
Read



***Knick Knack Paddy Whack*, illustrated by Christiane Engel**



This colorful song book includes a CD so you and your child can sing along. There are 10 verses of rhyme and a chorus that repeats itself so your child will quickly learn the words. This book also includes the musical notes to the song and a short description of the instruments that are shown in the drawings. It is a fun way to learn numbers and rhyming words.



Choosing Books



More books to sing along with...

Down By the Bay, by Raffi

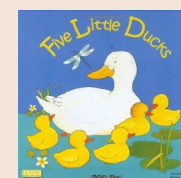
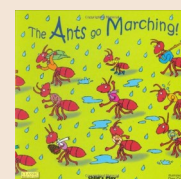
Wheels on the Bus, by Ann Owen

The Ants Go Marching, by Dan Swift

We're Going on a Bear Hunt, by Helen Oxenbury

Five Little Ducks, by Annie Kubler

Pete the Cat- I Love My White Shoes, by Eric Litwin and James Dean





Make homemade instruments...

- Drum — coffee can with lid or oatmeal tub
- Maracas (shakers) — water bottles or juice cans filled about 1/3 full with rice or dry beans. Seal the top with paper and tape.
- Tambourine — seal two aluminum pie pans or sturdy paper plates together with duct tape, after putting a small handful of dry beans inside.

Write



A fun activity for developing writing skills is to play music while your child is scribbling or drawing. If they are old enough, encourage them to draw to the beat of the music. If the music is slow, they will draw slowly. If it speeds up, their drawing will speed up. This helps your child think about and learn to control their drawing. A variation on this activity is to have them draw a picture about how the music makes them feel—happy, sad, tired. Have fun with different kinds of music.

Talk



If You're Happy and You Know It

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands,

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands,

If you're happy and you know it,

Then your face will surely show it.

If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.

Additional verses:

If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet...

If you're happy and you know it, turn around...

If you're happy and you know it, shake your hands...



This Is the Way We Wash Our Hands

(act out the words to the song— to the tune of "This is the Way We Go to School")

This is the way we wash our hands,
wash our hands, wash our hands,

This is the way we wash our hands,
early in the morning.

This is the way we brush our teeth,
brush our teeth, brush our teeth,

This is the way we brush our teeth,
early in the morning.

This is the way we go to bed...

This is the way we clean our rooms...



At your library...



Check at your library for CDs and DVDs of children's songs. You can find special holiday music or songs you can sing year-round!